

Dear Parents,

Here is a summary of key points that were addressed at our meeting with parents, following the Ofsted report.

Who was at the meeting?

- Approximately 16 parents
- Dr John Smith, CEO, Helen Howard, Director of School Improvement, Sam Coates, Director of Policy and Governance, (Hastings Academies Trust)
- John Smith, Executive Principal, Carly Welch, Principal
- Peter Savage, Chair of Governing Body
- Senior leaders of the academy

Why was the school judged to be inadequate?

- Last year was an exceptional year of turbulence for the academy, that could not be predicted. The Principal was off sick for most of the year and other senior leaders were unwell for periods of time. Additionally, many teachers left the school for new posts or promotions
- The trust put in place cover for leadership as soon as it was able and things had started to move forward before the inspection took place
- Although Ofsted saw many positive things, there had not been enough time for the new leaders to make a long-term impact.

Is assessment accurate now?

- Leaders have arranged for training for teachers, to ensure that their assessment of pupils' work is now accurate
- Leaders regularly check pupils' books to match the work to teachers' assessments
- Teachers meet regularly to discuss their data and show how they will address any gaps or weaknesses
- The local authority also checks teachers' assessments.

Can parents have more information about the curriculum?

- Some parents did not feel that they knew enough about what is going to be taught in advance, so it was difficult to support their child's learning
- The Principal agreed to put the curriculum statements and what was tested, on the website for parents' information.
- There will also be more help for parents to understand how schools must now teach pupils to calculate problems in maths so that they can use the same methods at home.

How will the academy ensure that more-able children make good progress?

- Teachers are much more able to use data to see which pupils should have greater challenge
- The new strategies for teaching and for assessment will help teachers to set work that meets the needs of all pupils, including the more-able.

What is the future of the school?

- Ofsted were confident in their report that the leaders that are currently in place at the academy, together with the trust, know what to do and are capable of making rapid progress
- The trust has invested a lot of funding and support to Baird which parents had noticed and felt positive about the changes. They expressed support for John and Carly.
- All parents are asked to support their child at Baird by:
 - Supporting their child's learning
 - Making sure that their child attends regularly

Summary of parents' views

- Parents were concerned about the Ofsted outcome but supportive of what the academy is now doing
- They agreed with the positive aspects of the report although they wanted more challenge for the most able pupils
- They were concerned about the small number of parents who attended the meeting and hoped that more would support in the future

If any parent has concerns, the Principal asked that s/he lets her know, so that they can be addressed.

Yours faithfully

Peter Savage, Chair, Governors
John Smith, CEO Hastings Academies Trust